A NEW SPECIES OF *SYNCRETOCARPUS* (ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE: HELIANTHINAE) FROM CENTRAL PERU

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ABSTRACT

Syncretocarpus ancashino is described and illustrated and its salient features compared to the other two species of the genus.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae-Heliantheae-Helianthinae-Syncretocarpus

Among the sunflowers collected in a recent field trip to Peru we have identified a new species of *Syncretocarpus* S. F. Blake that we describe below. *Syncretocarpus* is endemic to Peru and a member of the mostly Mexican subtribe Helianthinae characterized by its sterile ray flowers, compressed cypselae with a pappus of mostly two awns and several squamellae in between. With the description of this novelty the genus now contains three species, all from dry rocky canyons flanking rivers flowing to the Pacific coast of Peru.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Measurements reported in the description were obtained from the type collection. The description was enhanced by observations made of live plants growing in the type locality.

DESCRIPTION

Syncretocarpus ancashino Panero & A. Granda P. **sp. nov.** (Fig. 1)
Type. PERU. Ancash: Cañón del Pato, carretera Caráz-Huallanca, 12 May 2000, *J. L. Panero, B. S. Crozier,* and *M. Arakaki 7575* (Holotype USM; Isotypes: CTES, HAO, MOL, TEX, TENN).

A S. sericeus inflorescentiis majoribus, corollis tenue flavis, capitulis campanulatis, foliis linearis vel lanceolatis, et eleosoma nullo differt.

Small shrubs or perennial herbs 1.0-2.0 m tall, older stems light brown, distal branches densely puberulent, whitish brown. Leaves alternate, blades linear to narrowly lanceolate, 1.0-6.0 cm long, 2.0-5.0 mm wide, petioles 2.0-5.0 mm long. Capitulescences solitary or very open paniculate cymes of 2-9 heads. Heads radiate, turbinate to campanulate, 1.6-1.8 cm high, 8.0-9.0 mm wide. Phyllaries 16-24 in 2-3 graduated series, puberulent with resin dots, pubescence denser on distal half; phyllaries of first series ovate, 3.5-4 mm long, 1.3-1.7 mm wide, phyllaries of second series ovate to oblong 6.0-8.5 mm long, 3.0-4.5 mm wide, phyllaries of third series oblong, 9.0-10 mm long, 1.5-3.0 mm wide. Pales oblong to ovate in outline with two folds that produce three segments, the central segment is as wide as the cypselae and the side segments are equivalent and overlap each other enclosing and wrapping the basal half of the cypsela tightly, 1.1-1.2 cm long, ca. 4.0 mm wide, puberulent, pubescence denser on distal half. Ray flowers 8-11, sterile, limb oblong, light yellow, 1.1-1.4 cm long, 3.5-4.5 mm wide, apex bifid, densely puberulent along veins on abaxial surface with a few resin dots scattered in between the veins; tube puberulent, 2.5 mm long; ovary 4.4-4.7 mm long, densely puberulent. Disc flowers 24-30, perfect, light yellow turning deep orange to red with age, tubular, throat ca. 6 mm long, sparsely puberulent, tube 1.5-1.7 mm long, 0.9-1.0 mm wide, moderately puberulent, lobes broadly triangular, ca. 1.0 mm long, ca. 1.5 mm wide; stamens 5, anther thecae yellow-orange, ca. 3.5 mm long, anther appendage ca. 0.8 mm long; style deep yellow, ca. 7.0 mm long, style branches ca. 1.5 mm long, tips triangular with no tapering appendage. Disc cypselae obovate to obtriangular, silvery sericeous, trichomes 3.7-4.2 mm long, basalmost area glabrous, black, 6.0-7.0 mm long, ca. 2.0 mm wide, elaiosome lacking, pappus of 2 awns and 4 squamellae, stramineous, awns oblanceolate, tapered, 5.7-7.0 mm long, squamellae oblong, 2.5-2.8 mm long, 0.7-0.9 mm wide. (Fig. 1).

Figure. 1. Syncretocarpus ancashino **sp. nov.** (A) Flowering branch. (B) Cypsela. (C) Habit and view of type locality. Drawn from *Panero, Crozier & Arakaki 7575.*

DISCUSSION

Syncretocarpus ancashino is a ruderal species from the sandy cliffs of the Huallanca region of the Santa River canyon of northern Ancash department in central Peru. The species grows with other ruderal composites including *Acmella* Rich, *Heterosperma* Cav., and *Porophyllum* Adans.. *Syncretocarpus ancashino* replaces *Syncretocarpus sericeus* S. F. Blake in the drier areas of the canyon. The new species occupies disturbed habitats along the road in the narrow Huallanca canyon before the road takes an abrupt descent to the arid coast of northern Peru where hardly any sunflower is present except for weedy species exploiting the humidity at the edge of rice and sugarcane fields maintained by irrigation.

Syncretocarpus ancashino can be easily separated from the abundant *S. sericeus* by the color of its corollas (light yellow vs. golden yellow), narrower leaves (lanceolate vs. ovate), the shape of its heads (campanulate vs. hemispherical), and cypselae that lack elaiosomes (very conspicuous in *S. sericeus*). The third species of *Syncretocarpus*, *S. similis* S. F. Blake is only known from the type specimen collected in central Ica Department in south-central Peru. *Syncretocarpus similis* is scarcely different from *S. sericeus* and might prove to be conspecific. Given that the new species is endemic to Ancash, we found appropriate to honor this Peruvian department by adopting for the name of the species the common name Peruvians give to those that live or were borne in Ancash department.

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